

# Unwinding Continuous Medicaid Eligibility

## general information

### Continuous Eligibility Background

- At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government declared a public health emergency or PHE.
- During the PHE, state Medicaid agencies have been required to continue Medicaid coverage for all members, even if their eligibility changes.
- As a result, Utah Medicaid members have stayed covered during the PHE so they don't have to worry about their health coverage during this challenging time.
- Utah's Medicaid and CHIP enrollment has grown by 64% during the pandemic, which is the third highest rate in the nation. As of December 2022, Utah Medicaid has more than 509,500 members.
- On December 23, 2022, Congress passed the FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act. One part of this bill separated the federal PHE and Medicaid's continuous enrollment policy.
- **This Act establishes April 1, 2023, as the end of the continuous enrollment requirement for Medicaid.**
- The federal PHE will end on May 11, 2023, which will also end the [COVID-19 Uninsured Coverage Medicaid program](#).

### Unwinding Medicaid Eligibility

- **On March 1, 2023 the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) will begin to review all Medicaid cases over the next 12-month unwinding period.**
- This is being referred to as "unwinding."
- Members will be assigned a review month and their case will stay open until their scheduled review month. Members are encouraged to continue using their benefits as normal until DWS completes their review.
- To monitor this process over the course of those 12 months, DWS will provide transparent tracking data. Utah Medicaid will monitor and publish a Continuous Eligibility Unwinding Dashboard which will be publicly available on the [Medicaid website](#), after February 13, and communicate activity and key metrics throughout the unwinding period.

- Members who are no longer eligible with a known eligibility reason will be transferred directly to the federal exchange. There is currently an automatic process for this transfer to take place as long as a determination is made (does not occur when a case is closed for failing to complete/return paperwork).
- Utah Medicaid has a robust communication plan that will use direct mail, social media, email, and more to inform Medicaid members of the unwinding and what they need to do.

## Call to Action

- Many people moved during the pandemic. It is critical that the state is able to reach them when it is time to review their eligibility.
- Utah Medicaid is asking members to update their contact information (address, phone number and email) with the Department of Workforce Services at 1-866-435-7414 or by calling a Health Program Representative at 1-866-608-9422.
- Members should also pay close attention to their mail and/or email for notices and respond timely to reviews.
- Since DWS eligibility will need to review all Medicaid cases in the next year, we are asking members to wait until they receive their review before taking action. After February 11, 2023, members can see their review date in [myCase](#).
- Updates will also be posted on the [Medicaid website](#) regarding the continuous eligibility unwinding.
- Providers and partners have also been asked to help spread the word and encourage their clients and patients to complete their reviews to maintain coverage. An unwinding toolkit is available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#) to help providers and partners with messaging, social media posts and materials.